



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## **Commercial Harvest of Gray Triggerfish Will Close in South Atlantic Waters on September 8, 2015**

Commercial harvest of gray triggerfish in South Atlantic waters will **close, at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on September 8, 2015**. Commercial harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2016. The 2015 July – December commercial quota is 63,918 pounds whole weight. Reports indicate that landings are approaching the 2015 July – December quota for the commercial sector.

The operator of a vessel with a federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper that is landing gray triggerfish for sale must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such gray triggerfish prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time), September 8, 2015. The prohibition on sale does not apply to sale or purchase of gray triggerfish that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m. (local time), September 8, 2015, and held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

During the closure:

- Harvest or possession of gray triggerfish is limited to the recreational bag and possession limits.
- Sale and purchase of gray triggerfish is prohibited.
- The closure applies in both state and federal waters for vessels with a federal South Atlantic Unlimited Snapper-Grouper Permit.

This closure is necessary to protect the snapper-grouper fishery.